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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/803,381

03/18/2004

P. J. Hough

MSFT-3844/167533.03

5505

41505 7590 06/22/2007

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2929 ARCH STREET

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104-2891

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, CAO H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2173

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/22/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/803,381

Applicant(s)

HOUGH ET AL.

Examiner

Cao (Kevin) Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/04; 12/05.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knight (US Patent No. US 6,515,681) in view of Kanungo et al. (US Patent No. 6,380,955).

Regarding claims 1 and 36, Kanungo discloses a method for interfacing with a computer display wherein the display comprises a plurality of regions, with each region displaying information associated with at least one of (a) at least one data source and (b) user entered data, comprising:

flagging an element in a first region (see col. 6, lines 11-62); however, Kanungo fails to explicitly teach altering the information displayed in at least one region, different from said first region, based upon said flagged element.

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Knight teaches altering the information displayed in at least one region, different from said first region, based upon said flagged element (see col. 11, lines 1-65). It would have been obvious to one of an ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Kanungo and Knight before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the flag in the child context of the applet of Kannungo to include interacting with online message board, as taught by Knight. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to enhance a user friendly and allowing user to select various information in regions on display screen.

Regarding claims 2 and 22, Kanungo discloses wherein said plurality of regions are a plurality of Web parts (see col. 7, lines 7-54).

Regarding claims 3 and 23, Knight discloses wherein said display is a browser display displaying said plurality of regions (see figures 3B-3C).

Regarding claims 4 and 24, Kanungo discloses wherein said information displayed by each region is transmitted via hypertext transfer protocol (see col. 7, lines 5-54 and figures 3(a)).

Regarding claims 5 and 20, Knight discloses wherein said altering includes filtering at least one of (a) the at least one data source associated with said at least one region and (b) the information displayed in said at least one region (see col. 11-12, lines 1-65).

Regarding claims 6 and 21, Knight discloses wherein said altering includes joining at least one of (a) the at least one data source associated with said at least one region and (b) the information displayed in said at least one region (see col. 13, lines 5-62).

Regarding claims 7-9, Knight discloses wherein said flagging includes selecting said element in said first region; and unflagging (see figure 1-3B).

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Regarding claims 10 and 11, Knight discloses wherein unflagging said element restores the information displayed in said at least one region, different from said first region, to the information displayed before flagging said element (see col. 15, lines 3-51).

Regarding claims 12 and 13, Knight discloses wherein flagging includes pinning element and unflagging includes unpinning element (see col. 16, lines 4-67).

Regarding claims 14-16, Knight discloses wherein the flagged element indicates the context for the alteration of information in regions not having a flagged element; and wherein said altering of the information consists of altering information displayed in all of said plurality of regions, different from said first region, based upon said flagged element (see col. 19, lines 35-67 and col. 20, lines 1-67).

As claims 17-18 are analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claims 1 above.

Claims 19, differs from claim 1 in that “wherein said user flags an element in a first region of said plurality of regions, thereby altering the information displayed in at least one region, different from said first region, based upon said element flagged by the user” as recited in Kanungo; see col. 8, lines 8-62).

As claims 26 and 27 are analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claims 9-10 above.

Regarding claims 28, Kanungo discloses wherein said unflagging of said element by the user restores the information displayed in said at least one region, different from said first region, to the information displayed before flagging said element (see figures 4).

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Regarding claims 29, Kanungo discloses wherein said unflagging of said element by the user alters the information displayed in said at least one region, different from said first region, to information displayed without the influence of said element (figures 1-3).

As per claims 30-35 are apparatus claims that corresponds to a method claims 1-19, and thus are rejected for the aforementioned reason.

### ***Conclusion***

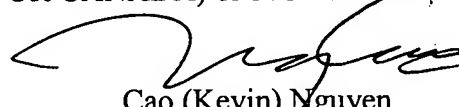
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure (see PTO-892).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cao (Kevin) Nguyen whose telephone number is (571)272-4053. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571)272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Cao (Kevin) Nguyen  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2173

06/18/07